

FOCUS ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE DESK OF WAUKESHA COUNTY EXECUTIVE
DANIEL P. VRAKAS



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Dear Friends,

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks on our country. I am sure that every American vividly remembers where they were when they heard about the attacks to the World Trade Center Buildings, the Pentagon and the hijacked plane that crashed in Pennsylvania. Following the attacks, Americans proved their strength, pride and perseverance. I am extremely proud to be an American, and in the wake of the September 11th attacks, I have never been prouder.

On the anniversary of the event, I encourage you to reflect on our great nation and the sacrifices that so many Americans made that day and the sacrifices that our brave soldiers continue to make everyday as they fight for our freedom. Waukesha County municipalities are offering a number of events to commemorate this important anniversary. Check for the event closest to you or in your municipality.

On Friday, September 9th, St. John's Northwest Military Academy in Delafield is hosting a program titled "Waukesha County Remembers September 11, 2001" at 11:30 a.m. on the campus' Field of Flags. The St. John's band will be performing at 11:30, and I will be participating in an 11:55 ceremony along with Senator Ron Johnson and Sheriff Dan Trawicki.

On Sunday, September 11th, the Town of Lisbon will be dedicating a memorial to those who have lost their lives to terrorism. The centerpiece of the memorial will be an actual piece of steel from the World Trade Center. At 12 p.m. on September 11th, a number of local officials including myself and Senator Johnson will formally dedicate the monument.

I hope that each of you will take time out of your day on September 11th to reflect upon and commemorate the day.

Sincerely,

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WAUKESHA COUNTY'S BOND RATING SECURE

Waukesha County was informed by Moody's Investors Service that their triple Aaa bond rating, the highest bond rating possible, remains secure. The County was notified of this in the wake of a recent announcement by Moody's that a number of public finance issuers were being reviewed for possible downgrade due to review of U.S. government's Aaa rating.

In their announcement, released earlier this month, the agency stated that 162 local governments, with Aaa ratings, including 66 cities, 53 counties, 29 school districts and 14 special tax districts would be reviewed. The announcement, found at www.moody.com, included a full list of governments being reviewed.

"This announcement confirms Waukesha County's outstanding financial position," said County Executive Dan Vrakas. "Despite the challenges that the nation is facing, the financial position of Waukesha County remains strong and the validation of our Aaa bond rating verifies that."

Earlier this year, Moody's awarded Waukesha County the coveted Aaa for the 23rd consecutive year. In their report, Moody's stated that Waukesha County is in "a strong financial position," and "Waukesha County's solid economic fundamentals bodes well for the county's long term stability."

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AWARD WINNERS

County Executive Daniel P. Vrakas is pleased to announce the 2011 County Executive Award winners recognized for the excellence they demonstrate as a successful organization in the community:

First Bank Financial Centre
Business of the Year

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C.
Honorable Mention for Business of the Year

Waukesha Family Practice Center
Large Non-Profit of the Year

Christmas Clearing Council of Waukesha County
Small Non-Profit of the Year

Pregnancy Support Connection
Honorable Mention for Small Non-Profit of the Year

Lake Country Fire and Rescue
Government Agency of the Year

An independent panel of judges that includes business executives, community leaders and past award winners, select award recipients each year. Due to the number of exceptional award applications that were received in 2011, these volunteers decided to provide Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C. as a Business, and Pregnancy Support Connection as a Small Non-Profit, with special recognition by providing them with "honorable mention" status.

The winners will be honored at the sixteenth annual County Executive Awards Luncheon at the Country Springs, Waukesha, on Thursday, October 6. Registration will start at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12 p.m.

Reservations for the luncheon are available at \$45.00 per person, and corporate tables of 10 are available for \$450.00. For further information or to make reservations, contact Shirlene Hazelberg at 548-7902.

"Waukesha County: Leading the Way ..."

VRAKAS APPOINTS NEW CHIEF-OF-STAFF

County Executive Dan Vrakas announced the appointment of Shawn Lundie as his Chief-of-Staff on August 24th. Lundie will replace Ellen Nowak who was appointed as a Wisconsin Public Service Commissioner.

“Shawn will be an outstanding addition to the Waukesha County team,” Vrakas said. “His diverse experience at different levels of government has given him a unique perspective of the issues facing our state and Waukesha County.”

Lundie has nearly fifteen years of experience working in federal and state government. Most recently, he served as District Director to State Senator Rich Zipperer and Chief-of-Staff to former State Senator Ted Kanavas. Prior to his tenure in Madison, Lundie worked for Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner in Washington, D.C. and in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

“I am excited to be a part of such a successful and hard working group of people. I look forward to helping Waukesha County lead the way delivering quality services in a cost effective manner,” Lundie said.

FARMERS' MARKET PRODUCE DONATIONS

Waukesha County UW Extension and the Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition, with the help of volunteers, have been collecting fresh produce donations from farmers' market vendors and customers this year to help stop hunger in Waukesha County.

UW Extension staff are at the Waukesha and Butler Farmers' Markets to collect fresh produce donations, as well as give out nutritional information, horticultural resources and healthy recipes to farmers' market visitors. Customers are encouraged to donate from their own garden's fresh surplus or a portion of their farmers' market purchase. All of the donations from the Waukesha Farmers' Market are delivered to the Hope Center by UW Extension staff and donations collected at the Butler Farmers' Market are distributed by volunteers to the Butler and Menomonee Falls Food Pantries.

Six families from Cross of Life Lutheran Church take turns collecting vendors' surplus of fresh produce weekly at the Brookfield Farmers' Market and delivering it to the Salvation Army Meal Site. At all three farmers' markets, most of the donations are collected from the vendor's fresh surplus.

As of August 15th, 2011 approximately 5,120 pounds of fresh produce have been contributed to local meal sites by Waukesha County Farmers' Market vendors and customers.



Volunteers pick up fresh produce at a Farmers' Market booth every week.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”

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WINGS OVER WAUKESHA

Wings Over Waukesha was a huge success for Waukesha County and the Waukesha County Airport. The 2-day event that took place on August 28th and 29th attracted more than 10,000 visitors to the area.

The daily air shows featured aerobatic performers, wing walkers, sky-divers and dozens of other vintage and contemporary airplanes. The Yankee Air Museum in Detroit brought its fully-restored World War II era B-25 “Mitchell” bomber and the Minneapolis U.S. Air Force Reserve brought in a C-130 transport plane to participate in the show and to display.

Guests had the opportunity to rides in the B-25 “Mitchell” bomber for a feel and rides were also available in a single-engine aircraft or helicopter \$40 per person.

Visitors also enjoyed outstanding food from local vendor, display booths and music provided by local talent.



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Executive Dan
Vrakas on Twitter!**

**Username:
CoExecDanVrakas**

APPLE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Apple Harvest Festival returns once again to Retzer Nature Center. This year’s event, the 25th annual, will take place September 17th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is only \$5 per vehicle. Here are some of this year’s highlights:

- Delicious food including barbeque pork, grilled chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, apple pie slices and caramel apples
- Apple pie baking contest, a craft fair and heirloom apples available to taste and purchase
- Apple experts available to answer any of your apple questions
- Orchard tours with Johnny Appleseed at 10:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.
- Hayrides at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., as well as a silent auction at 9 a.m. and another at 4 p.m.
- Folk concerts by Apple Jam from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by Ken Lonnquist and Friends from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- Children’s activities and a show at the planetarium – “Saturn, Jewel of the Heavens”

For more information or to volunteer for the event, call (262) 896-8007.

“Waukesha County: Leading the Way ...”